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(72) Inventor: **Colbert, Raymond Otto**
Naperville, Illinois 60565 (US)

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(74) Representative: **Harding, Richard Patrick et al**
Marks & Clerk,
Nash Court,
Oxford Business Park South
Oxford OX4 2RU (GB)

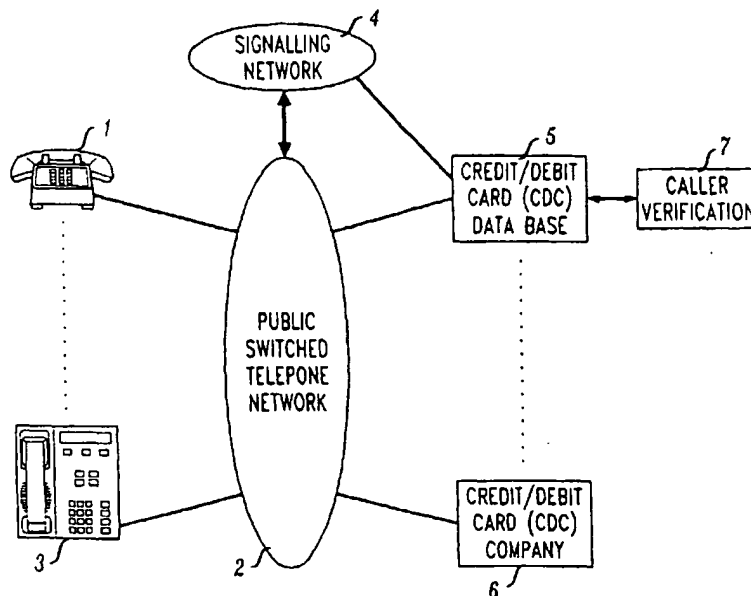
(71) Applicant: **AT&T Corp.**
New York, NY 10013-2412 (US)

(54) **Secure credit/debit card authorization**

(57) This invention relates to methods for making a credit/debit card purchase without revealing the card number to the vendor (3) of services or goods. The card holder (1) is connected to a data base (5) and provides the card number, plus holder identity verification, to the

data base. The data base then verifies whether the card holder is authorised to incur the expense of the purchase, and, if so, provides an authorisation indication or code to the vendor (3); the card number cannot be derived from the authorisation information, thus helping to preserve the secrecy of the card number.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 30 7492

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	EP 0 501 697 A (AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH)	1	G07F7/08
A	* claim 1; figure 3 *	2-7	G06F15/30
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	* claim 1; figure 4 *		

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			G07F
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		3 December 1997	Kirsten, K
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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